

# THE COURIER

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*Six former presidents (left to right, Donald G. Bennett, Arlan Jodrey, Walter Hatch, Alden Kennett, Jane Hosterman and Marvin Ouwinga) and the current one Allen Cressy (extreme right) pose with Charter Member Rosalind Chapman (second from right) at the Oral History Night celebrating the Society's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of founding*

## SOCIETY CELEBRATES ITS 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

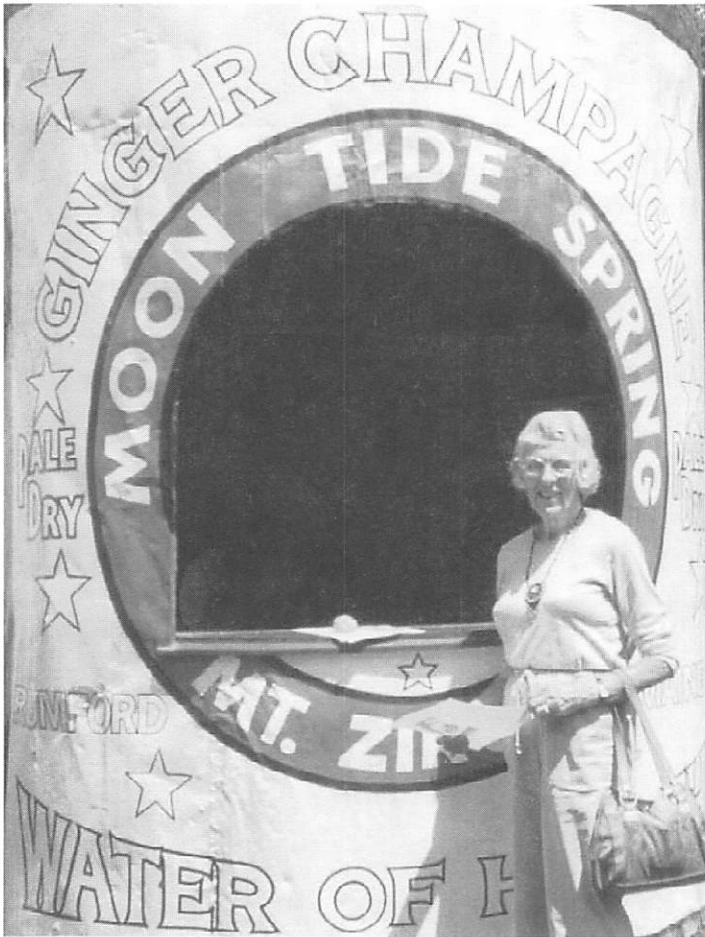
On 11 May 2006, six former presidents, plus the current president and one of the two surviving charter members, gathered in the meeting room of the Dr. Moses Mason House to discuss their memories of the Society, which this year observes the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. The Society was founded at a meeting in the Bethel Library on 31 May 1966 by eighteen individuals interested in local history.

During the evening, Charter Member Rosalind Rowe Chapman of Bethel was present to share some of her memories of those early days. Former presidents attending included (listed in order of service) Donald G. Bennett, Alden T. Kennett, Marvin Ouwinga, Jane Hosterman, Walter Hatch, and Arlan Jodrey. Those unable to attend (also in order of service) were Barbara Lapham, Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Catherine Newell, Charles Raymond and Alvin Barth.

Society Director Stanley R. Howe served as facilitator for this oral history evening where Charter Member Mrs. Chapman recalled the early struggle to keep the organization

going, largely through the dedication and iron will of the founder Eva Bean. When Miss Bean died in 1969, others stepped forward to take up the baton and keep things going forward, moving the Society to incorporation in 1971. The gift of the Dr. Mason House from the Bingham Trust and the arrival of a site administrator in 1974 were major steps in the progress of the organization. From that time on, the Society membership, number of activities and visibility have grown remarkably. Exhibits, school programs, special events, publications, lectures and museum tours have become part of what the public has come to expect from the Society.

Several of the former presidents recalled developments that occurred during their time in office, ranging from endowment gifts to new special events and items for the collection to unforgettable members and volunteers. Some humorous moments were noted as well. All of the former presiding officers present appeared proud of the progress enjoyed to date, but were anxious to see the completion of the Robinson House museum expansion project. They expressed optimism about the Society's future and hoped it would go on to fulfill its ambitious plans in the next few years.



*Charter Member Janet Richardson of Portland stands in front of the Mt. Zircon "Bottle" during the Society's House Tour in June.*

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\*Deceased



*Members of Judy Haskell's family and a close friend pose during the "Remembering Time" held for this outstanding volunteer in June at the Dr. Moses Mason House. From left to right (back row) Colwyn Haskell (husband), Owen Davis (grandson), Mike Davis (son-in-law), Alex Davis (grandson), Jamie Haskell (son). Front row (left to right) George Wilson (brother-in-law), Joyce Wilson (sister), Jean Waite ("adopted daughter"), Kathy Davis (daughter).*

## Western Maine Saints: A Newry Family (Sessions)



By Mary E. Valentine

In March 1854, while Perrigrine was in Maine, John Perry told his wife Patty that he had Brigham Young's permission to take a young, plural wife; although John had four sons and three daughters before leaving Wales, his marriage at age sixty-five to a thirty two year old woman enabled him between 1855 and 1862 to father five more children, four boys and a girl. John Perry died in 1868; like David he came home to be cared for in his last illness.

In 1869, the transcontinental railroad was completed when the Union Pacific and Central Pacific sections were joined at Promontary, Utah on 10 May of the year with a golden spike. The next year, Perrigrine accompanied his mother on a trip to Maine which she had left thirty three years ago. Her only living sibling by this time was her youngest brother, Enoch. She had hoped to entice him and his wife to join the Saints in Utah, but although he visited Patty, he and his wife chose to stay in Maine. However, in 1878, Patty sent \$125 to pay for Enoch's sons, Warinton and Herbert, to come to Utah, hoping their parents would follow. The boys arrived in October, joined the Latter-day Saints, and found work.

In December 1883, Patty dedicated the Patty Sessions Academy, a school she had commissioned and funded in Bountiful to provide educational opportunities for her grandchildren and others. After John Parry's death, Patty sold her property in Salt Lake and had built a home for herself in Bountiful, near her children. Since Perrigrine Sessions had eight or nine wives, and fifty-four children, Patty had many grandchildren.

In March 1886, Perrigrine Sessions set out on his last trip to Maine, this time to obtain genealogical information. He arrived in Bethel on March 29 and found two feet of snow. He spent the night at Hiram Twitchell's [on lower Main Street] and had dinner at noon with Charles Harris (father of Broad Street residents Hattie and John). On 1 April, he continued on to Newry, where he stayed with Elisha Bartlett in the home where his mother had lived as a child. In Newry, the snow was four feet deep in the woods. He visited some of the local industries, a furniture factory in Walker's Mills, and Bartlett's spool factory. On 23 May, he took the stage to Upton, and visited Levi Stone Heywood, who had expressed an interest in the Latter-day Saints. In June, Perrigrine returned to Levi Heywood's. Levi had arranged for Perrigrine to talk with a Presbyterian minister about plural marriage. After hearing the debate, Levi and his wife were baptized in Abbott's Mill Pond in Upton. In December 1889, Levi Stone Heywood and his wife arrived in Utah and were welcomed by Perrigrine's wife Esther.

Patty's last entry in her diary was in May 1888. She died in December 1892, and Perrigrine died 3 June 1893.

[Editor's note: Copies of Patty Bartlett Sessions' diary and other historical sources relating to this article are found in the Society's Eva Bean Research Room.]

### President's Column

It is a great pleasure to note with pride the fortieth anniversary of the Society's founding in 1966. We are indeed grateful to everyone who has helped us through the years to become one of the leading historical societies in Maine. Our programming this year is dedicated to highlighting this milestone. It will also be the theme of our Annual Meeting in September.

As part our celebration, a committee has been working hard to give the organization a new set of proposed bylaws which combines the present constitution and bylaws into one governing document that was inspired by several models and should serve us well in the future. You will find this enclosed with this issue. It will be considered at the Annual Meeting on September 14 and I hope you will read it carefully and support its adoption if it is possible for you to attend the meeting.

One other exciting bit of news is that the Society has been selected to participate in the Museum Assessment Program for governance sponsored by the American Association of Museums and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This is one more example of our commitment to excellence as we strive toward accreditation of the Society once our expansion project is completed.

Allen Cressy

### BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

The Bethel Historical Society is committed to building on its reputation as a premier regional history center that will continue to enrich the educational and cultural life of its community for generations to come. Members and friends have generously contributed to the operations of the Society and to the acquisition of the Robinson House. In order to ensure the long-term maintenance and further development of the Center's facilities, programs, and collections, the Society is seeking new forms of support. You, readers of *The Courier*, are asked to consider making a charitable gift to the Society through a bequest in your will, the establishment of a trust, or a number of other financial arrangements and options that are available. These charitable gifts can be structured to support the Society's mission while at the same time assuring the security of your family. For more information, please contact the Society by calling (207) 824-2908 or (800) 824-2910 or by writing to P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012 or by emailing: [info@bethelhistorical.org](mailto:info@bethelhistorical.org)



# Bethel Historical Society

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Roger and Nancy Adams, Jr., W. Simsbury, CT; Charles and Deborah Adams, Bethel; Robert J. F. Albota, Ottawa, Ontario; Jeffrey Allison, Wellesley, MA; Roberta R. Arbree, Randolph, NH; Carolyn Austin, Bennington, VT; Lynn and Joe Arizzi, Bethel; Carol Bailey, Bethel; Lorenzo and Jan Baker, Bethel; Dan and Terri Barnes, Gorham, NH; Durwood and Alice Mary Bean, New Gloucester; Barbara and Michael Brown, Shapleigh; Gurdon S. Buck, Watertown, MA; Cheryl E. Burnham, Bethel; Stephen and Jane Carey, Attleboro, MA; Thomas P. Carey, Greene; Douglas E. and Anne B. Chandler, Tempe, AZ; Richard and Cynthia Chandler, East Falmouth, MA; Claudia M. Chickles, Ware, MA; Scott Cole, Bethel; Jerry and Susan Cullars, Apopka, FL; Todd Davis, Bethel; Kathleen DeVore, Bethel; David E. Diano, LaCanada, CA; Richard DiPlacido, Bethel; Josiah and Joanna Drummond, Bethel; Richard and Carole Duplessis, Mason Township; Gordon Fish, St. Johnsbury, VT; Michael Fontaine, Leominster, MA; William and Jane Gibson, West Paris; Dillon and Paula Gillies, Bethel; William and Marguerite Graham, Bethel; Leonard P. Greaney, Rumford; Marjorie Greer, Cascade, MT; Bill and Susan Foster Hamill, Richmond, VA; Suzanne S. Hayner, Newry, ME; Peter Henderson, Lakewood, OH; Winifred Delery Hills, New Orleans, LA; Kathy Hooke, Portland, ME; Vernon Ingraham, Wareham, MA; Patricia Jackson, Barstow, CA; Howard E. Kaepplein, Harvard, MA; Kristen King, Worcester, MA; Frederick and Beatrice LaPlante, Norridgewock; Scott E. Lary, Caribou, ME; Nancy L. Lecompte, Lewiston; Rodney Lynch, Rockland; Art and Ellen Marshall, Bethel; Miriam and Bruce McGuire, Sturbridge, ME; James McIlroy, Newry, ME; Bob and Joanne Mercier, Newry, ME; Bernard J. Mohr and Karen Brown-Mohr, Portland; Greg and Betsey Morse, Yarmouth; Herbert H. Morton III, Andover, MA; Robert and Bethia Newmarker, Tolland, CT; Dr. Marvin and Tineke Ouwinga, Bethel; Diane Philbrick, Candia, NH; Steven Pinkham, Quincy, MA; Dr. Elaine Pitkin, Bethel; John Quinn, Dunstable, MA; Martha E. Rea, Kittery, ME; Olive E. Risko, Bryant Pond; Ted and Conni St. Pierre, Bethel; Arthur J. Smith, Petaluma, CA; Theodore B. Strange, M.D., Chestertown, MD; Robert Sturtz, Albany Township; Richard and Sally Taylor, Bethel; Roberta M. Taylor, Bethel; Gail Tout, Bethel; Judith Towne, Denmark, ME; Sandra S. Wheeler, West Bethel; Betsy Wilder, Keene, NH; Tracey Wilkerson and Peter Hedden, Bethel; Robert and Ann Williams, Center Lovell, ME;

### Sustaining

Albert C. Abbott, Buckfield; Herbert Adams, Portland; Roger C. and Nancy S. Adams, Jr., West Simsbury, CT; Pamela Andre, Washington, DC; Nancy Babcock, Newry, ME; Mary Bakeman, Roseville, MN; Oscar R. Baldwin, Havre de Grace, MD; Danny Barker, East Stoneham; Elizabeth W. Barnes, Reading, MA; Shirley R. Bassett, Derby, VT; JoAnn Kilgore Bauer, South Weymouth, MA; Betty Beach, Wilton; Carla B. Beddo, Vacaville, CA; Emily Hannah Beers, Bethel; Deena Bennett, Bryant Pond; Tony Bennett and Brenda Smith Blaisdell, Bethel; Tanya and Eddie Bilderback, Annapolis, MD; Tamara Mills Billings, Bryant Pond; Lindie and Steve Blake, West Bethel; Jay Boschetti, Bethel; Todd and Jennifer Boyle, Brambleton, VA; Harriet Bridges, Harvard, MA; Donald Briggs, Hancock, NH; George I. Brown, Jr., Niles, MI; Catherine Canavan, Cool, CA; Claire Berry Cantrell, Crossville, TN; Adam Chamberlin, Scarborough; Joshua Chamberlin, Hampton, NH; Zachary Chamberlin, Augusta; Jack Chapman, Bethel; William Chapman and Helen Shaw, Rockport, ME; A. Chismark, Bedford, NH; Patricia E. Clark, Unity; Judith D. Coletta, Woonsocket, RI; Daryl Collard, Victoria, British Columbia; Ben B. Conant, South Paris; Helen Connolly, Port Hadlock, WA; Joseph D. Conwill, Rangeley, ME; Judith A. Coolidge, Bethel; Barbara Crocker, Riverside, RI; Richard Cross, Bethel; Joanne Crounse, Danvers, MA; Ivory Currier, Jr., Bethel; Judith Decker, Reading, MA; Kathy and David DeGruttola, West Bethel; Andrew DeRoche, Ph.D., Longmont, CO; Michael P. Desplaines, South Paris, ME; Judith Price Diamond, Bethel; Lester Dickey, Gardiner; Gary Dolly, Madison, NH; Sharon D'Orsie, Gorham, ME; David Doyle, Bethel; Wayne and Susan Duplessis, Bethel; Gail Dye, Raymond, NH; William L. Dyer, Milford, NH; Louis Emery,

Buxton; Margaret E. Farnum, East Waterboro; Susan Farrar, Bethel; Elaine A. Fernald, Mount Desert; Barbara J. Ferrell, Scarborough; Kevin and Margie Finley, Bethel; David J. Fleming, Marblehead, MA; Robert Frederickson, Baldwin, MO; Kristin Gibson, Bethel; Alta Goodrich-Cooperman, Oxford; Scott Grant, Bethel; Paul C. Gray, S. Windsor, CT; Stephen and Elizabeth Gray, Ithaca, NY; Lynn Hagen, Hibbing, MN; Charles Hamlin, Longmeadow, MA; Gary Hansen, Provo, UT; Christopher Hart, Bangor; Eiranne Hart, Bangor; Michael R. Hasse, Eden Ridge, MN; Edward Hastings, Stevensville, MT; Michael and Leslie Hathaway, Madison, NH; H. Kimball Hirschman, Evanston, IL; Rosemary Hollingsworth, Evansdale, IN; Kerry Mason Hood, Portsmouth, RI; Bernard Hopkins, Mexico; Andrea Howe, Bethel; Alyssa Howe, Oxford; Dustin Howe, Bethel; Rebekah Howe, Bethel; David A. Ingraham, Onset, MA; Paula Jansmann, Green Valley, AZ; Diane Jones, Fryeburg; John and Elaine Jones, Portland; Mary Jo Kelly, Newry, ME; Virginia Kelly, Bethel; Ruth Kittredge, South Paris; Linda A. Knight, Harrison; Robert and Claire Lees, Bethel; Jim List, Hanover; Lucile W. Loukin, Ft. Pierce, FL; Steve and Louise Lovejoy, Stuart, FL; Carolyn MacDormand, Gilead; Ethel Mann, South Yarmouth, MA; Charlotte Marshall, Greenwood; M. Terry Martin, Rumford; Deborah and Paul Mason Gortmans, Livermore Falls; Howard F.R. Mason, Russell, MA; Rose Mary McLean, Bryant Pond; Dean Merchant, Stratham, NH; Loraine Milligan, Rumford Center; Davene Mitchell, Bethel; Madelyn J. Mitchell, Gorham, ME; Bernice W. Mowat, Billings, MT; William P.B. Murphy, Bethel; Lucille E. Naas, South Paris, ME; Janette Orino, Rumford; Ross Parker, Bethel; Susan and Scott Parker, Bethel; Lynn Cummings-Pike, Oxford; Nancy W. Pike, Lincolnville; Bonnie Pooley, Bethel; Archer Poor, Andover; Jean Ramsay, Scarborough, ME; Joan Ramsay, Groveton, NH; Nat and Michaela Reade, Bethel; Douglas and Sandra Rice, Guilford, CT; Robert and Priscilla Rice, West Chatham, MA; Elizabeth Richmond, Bethel; John Alley Robbins, Richmond; Lidie Robbins, Bethel; Dana F. Rodin, West Roxbury, MA; Jane Ryerson, Bethel; Oliveanne K. Scott, Lovell; Dr. John Shaw, Riverside, CA; David and Maryjane Shiverick, Bethel; Martha Siegel, Bethel; Dennis Smith, Rangeley, ME; James E. Smith, San Jose, CA; Richard J. Smith, UK; Ronald L. Smith, Freeport, ME; Eugenia M. Spalding, Tewksbury, MA; Leah W. Sprague, Newcastle; Jeff Stern, Norway, ME; Marjorie A. Stockford, Portland; E. Alta Sturgis, South Portland; Charles M. Thing, Rowley, MA; Jason Thompson, Provo, UT; Judith Thompson, New Sweden; Natalie and Sam Timberlake, Bethel; Maureen Tinsesz, Raleigh, NC; Barry E. Tracy, New York, NY; Mark Tuckerman, Center Harbor, NH; Robert Twitchell, Haddonfield, NJ; Frances Usenik, Kennebunkport, ME; Mark E. Vail, Salt Lake City, UT; Michele Varuolo, Bethel; Sarah Vedella, Flagstaff, AZ; Jerry and Shireen Vincent, Rockport, TX; Margaret Peg Webber, Littleton, CO; Weld Historical Society, Weld; Donnalee C. Stiles-Wells, Fremont, NH; Gail Weston, Rumford; Gayle Wigley, Gilead; John and Edleen Winslow, Bethel; Marie E. Witter, Gilead; Elizabeth Woronzoff, Asheville, NC; Claudia S. Wu, West Newton, MA;

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Richard and Sue Angevine, Upton; Mary Arnott, Keene, NH; Marie and Donald Austin, Amsterdam, NY; Dorothy W. Bargar, Uhrichsville, OH; Bruce and Joanne Bean, Errol, NH; Elmer H. and Arlene F. Bean, Bethel; Frederick and Geraldine Bean, Salem, NH; Ellen Littlehale Beecher, Plainfield, IN; Earl and Marilyn Bell, Waterford; Thelma Belloli, Framingham, MA; Nancy Kilgore Berges, Long Island, ME; Mary Billings, Bryant Pond; Robert R. and Judith Daniels Bishop, Yarmouth, ME; Lewis and Priscilla Bissell, Jackson, NH; Susan K. Black, Bridgton; Robert Blake, Loudon, NH; H. Mercer and Mary Louise Blanchard, Bath, ME; Walter Blazewicz, Jr., Peabody, MA; Otto and Kaye Blossy, Eustis, FL; Paul and Sally Bodwell, Bethel; Donald R. Bonney, Discovery Bay, CA; Rev. Raymond and Sally Bradley, Wakefield, RI; Charles D. and Bessie Brooks, Riverside, CA; Marion Flint Brooks, Naples; Caroline M. Brown, Colorado Springs, CO; Corey W. Brown, Rock Springs, WY; Doris Brown, Bethel; Geneva H. Brown, Norway; Jeff and Peggy Brown, E. Longmeadow, MA; Peter and Janet Brown, Bryant Pond; Ida C. Bryant, Hermon; Albert and Norma Buck, Oxford; Muriel Butters, Bethel; Stewart W. Byron, Madison, CT; Rev. David L. and Ann-etta Cannon, Preston, CT; Allan D. and Ann Carlson, Sanford; Ernest and Beverly Cassara, Cambridge, MA; Albert Chapman, Herbert, MI; Arthur Chapman, Bowdoinham; Hugh and Linsley Chapman, Gilead, ME; Richard P. and Elizabeth A. Clark, Newry, ME; Ruth Cox, Rumford; Daphne Cronin, Andover; Irene W. Cole, Waltham, MA; Evelyn Collins, New Cumberland, PA; Roger and Lillian Conant, Bethel; Ronald Coolidge, Quincy, MA; Cheryl Cozzens, Highland, UT; Carole Crandall, Charlottesville, VA; John Davis, South Paris, ME; Edward and Carol DeLemos, Needham, MA; Don and Joyce Dimick, Osprey, FL; Ruth Dobson, Hopkinton, NH; Gayland and

Mary Dooen, Bethel; John and Marie Dudley, Alexander; Bonnie Duncan, Magnolia, MA; Marianne H. Durgin, Belmont, MA; Margaret T. Edwards, Upton; Mary Lowell Ennis, Arlington, VT; Lorrie Eastwick and John Haskell, Kittery Point; Benjamin D. Etheridge, Bethel; Richard and Natalie Fain, Assonet, MA; Linda Bean Folkers, Falmouth, ME; Joanne P. Fortier, Windham; Robert Chapman Foster III, East Boothbay; Lillian Franks, Pittsburg, PA; A. S. French, Andover, ME; Joseph S. and Joan Gable, Albany Twp., ME; Deborah Gabris, Los Gatos, CA; John Gagnon, Eliot; Abigail Gerhard, Orange, CT; Clarice Gibson, Bethel; Ruth Gilbert, West Bethel; Betty Gilbert, Bethel; Charles and Dorothy Googins, Albany Twp., ME; Stephen Gordet, Westwood, MA; Caroline V. Gould, Bethel; Alice Tyler Gray, Standish; Vernina S. Gray, Hernando, FL; S. Eldon Greenleaf, Bethel; Jean H. Grover, Greenwood; Sandra O. Gunther, Bethel; Frances Harding, Manchester, NH; Hugh Hastings, II, Fryeburg, ME; Burton Hathaway, Bryant Pond; George Hayes, Sr., Bethel; Clayton, Jr. and Helen Heath, Norway; Donald B. and Molly Helms, East Lyme, CT; Jay and Hope Herr, Albany Twp.; Earl Higgins, Shillington, PA; Jay S. Hoar, Temple, ME; Kathleen Holden, West Paris; Christopher J. Hovey, Falmouth; Elizabeth N. Howe, Baltimore, MD; Nancy L. Huff, Lewiston, ME; Marita Hunton, Norway; Pamela Hupner, Somerset, CA; Arthur Johnson, Sumner, ME; Dick and Polly Johnston, Spanaway, WA; Marilyn Jones, Norway, ME; Frances E. Jordan, Mechanic Falls, ME; Lloyd M. and Betty A. Jordan, Addison, ME; R. Bradford and Noreen Jordan, Seneca, SC; Jean Kailey, Amelia Island, FL; Dene Kaufner, Redding, CT; Barbara Kelly, Lakeland, FL; Elizabeth Kilgore, Interlachen, FL; Carol Kimball, Frederickton, NB; Thelma Knight, Columbia, KY; Thomas H. and Mary G. Ladwig, Woodland Hills, CA; Reuell and Lois Leavitt, Gorham, NH; Revae E. Leppanen, Lakeport, CA; James H. Locke, Topeka, KS; Chris P. Longley, Albany Twp., ME; Lucile W. Loukin, Ft. Pierce, FL; Alfred Lovejoy, West Bethel; Mary Lovejoy, West Paris; Arlene Lyon, Falmouth; Alexander S. MacDonald, Lincoln, VT; James and Linda Macgregor, Rumford Center, ME; Elizabeth MacTaggart, Dallas, OR; Marilyn Marr, Stuart, FL; Craig and Ann Mason, Gorham, ME; Shirley Matero, South Paris; Pauline Angevine Matthews, Pipestone, MN; Pat Matulaitis, Phillips, ME; Robert McCrea, Meriden, CT; John McEntee, Plainville, MA; Lise and Stephen McLain, Jr., Gilead, ME; Richard and Linda McLoon, Portland, ME; Paul McMahon, Middletown, RI; Caroline O. Merrill, Bethel; Lee W. Merrill, Pickens, SC; Howard and Margot Miller, Green Cove Springs, FL; Blaine and Margaret Mills, Greenwood; Doris Mills, Bethel; Patricia P. Moore, Fresno, CA; Jan Lord Mott, Cary, NC; Andre Bear Nicholas, Ft. Fairfield; David Nichols, Las Vegas, NV; Carol Nielsen, Bethel; Yvonne Nowlin, Summerfield, FL; David Oakes, Greenbush, MA; Beverly Onofrio, Center Falls, RI; George L. Palmer, Keene, NH; Raymond G. Potvin, Andover, MA; Bruce and Shirley Powell, Hanover; Eunice Powell, Hanover; David Powers, Springfield; Gary N. Priest, Rangeley, ME; Norman and Joan Putnam, Bryant Pond; Joan N. Radner, Lovell; Glen D. Ramsay, Scarborough, ME; Alison and Wardwell Ratcliff, Gloucester, MA; Jim and Judy Ray, Austin, TX; Elva M. Reeg, Littleton, NH; Martha Ricker, Bryant Pond, ME; Jan Rideout, S. Paris; Curtis Richmond, Bethel; Henry and Elizabeth Robertson, Bethel; Adelaide Robinson, Yarmouthport, MA; Lillian Fuller Rose, Portsmouth, NH; Ava Rothwell, Hanson, MA; Charlotte Rowe, Raymond, ME; M. Patricia Ruff, Rumford; Thelma Rumford, Winter Haven, FL; John Russell, Shelburne, NH; Ruth B. Salo, South Paris; Charles A. Scontras, Cape Elizabeth, ME; Charles J. Sherman, Porterville, CA; Barbara and Bill Shellenberger, Wilmington, DE; Margaret L. Sibert, Vineyard Haven, MA; Ruth Silver, Bethel; Cas and Grace Skrzypczak, Rockville Centre, NY; Patricia Small, Burlington, CT; Alta Smith, Albany Twp.; Ronald and Gloria Snyder, West Bethel; Ruth Sorofman, Rochelle, GA; Myrtle Ruth Speer, Albuquerque, NM; Patricia Deese Stanton, Framingham, MA; Warren Stearns, Zephyrhills, FL; Farrell Stewart, Billings, MT; Katherine Stiring, Fruit Heights, UT; Marion C. Stock, Ramona, CA; George and Mary Stowell, Falmouth, ME; Joan C. Swallow, Norway; Beverly Swan, Andover; Martha Sweatt, Bethel; Sigmund Sysko, Lewiston; Myra Cole Taranto, Waltham, MA; Dr. Mary A. Telfer, Media, PA; Charles and Dixie-Lee Thayer, Bangor; Susan M. Thompson, Norwalk, CT; Clara Thurston, Fryeburg; Rosabelle Tift, Bethel; Joe Floyd Tillman, Sr., Marietta, GA; Constance Tutlis, Mexico; Betty Ann Tyson, Watertown, MA; Geraldine Grover Vangsness, Wanamingo, MN; Bev Wanlin, Pinole, CA; Don and Jan Webb, Newport Beach, CA; Mary R. Wheeler, Apopka, FL; Frances C. Whitman, Port Henry, NY; Bernard F. Wideman, Wells; Lindley Wieden, Madison; Peggy Williams, Carlisle, PA; Richard Wright, Lisbon; Richard O. York, Anaconda, MT; Robert M. Young, Essex, MA

## Student

Edith Doyle, Bethel; Maureen Doyle, Bethel; Caroline Finley, Bethel; Erin Murphy, Bethel; Gavin Parker, Bethel



# Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Bethel Historical Society

The Bethel Historical Society, organized under the authority of Title 13, Chapter 81 of the Revised Maine Statutes, and Amendments thereto, does hereby adopt the following amended and restated Bylaws for governing The Bethel Historical Society. These Bylaws replace the previously approved Bylaws, last amended May 1978, and Constitution, last amended February 1991.

## ARTICLE 1.0 GENERAL PROVISION

**1.1 Name.** The name of this Corporation shall be: The Bethel Historical Society (hereinafter referred to as the "Society".)

**1.2 Seal.** The Society shall have a circular seal bearing the words "The Bethel Historical Society, Inc., Maine, June 6, 1971."

**1.3 Purpose of Bylaws.** These Bylaws govern the general management of the affairs of the Society, except where otherwise provided for by the Constitution and Laws of the State of Maine and the Act of Incorporation.

## ARTICLE 2.0 SOCIETY PURPOSE

The Society is organized as a non-profit corporation for the purpose of collecting, preserving and interpreting materials deemed historically significant and worthy of preservation, in an effort to perpetuate, for this and future generations, the people, events, customs and traditions of local and regional northern New England history with a major concentration on western Maine and the White Mountain Region.

## ARTICLE 3.0 MEMBERS

**3.1 Eligibility for Membership.** Membership in the Society is open to any person who accepts the responsibilities of membership under the Bylaws and policies of the Society.

### 3.2 Classes and Benefits of Membership.

**3.2.1 Regular Membership.** The Board of Trustees (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") shall establish by written policy:

- a. Classes of regular membership.
- b. Benefits and privileges to which each class of membership is entitled.
- c. Fees to be paid by members for the use of the Society's resources and facilities.

**3.2.2 Charter Membership.** Those who attended the first meeting of the Society, held on 31 May 1966, shall be considered charter members.

**3.2.3 Honorary Membership** - The Board, by a majority vote, may elect to honorary membership in the Society persons who either (1) have attained eminent distinction in history or related subjects and/or performed

eminent service on behalf of the Society, or (2) are at least 75 years of age and have contributed extraordinary services to the Society. An honorary member shall be entitled to all benefits of membership awarded to the classes of regular membership and shall have a vote, but shall be exempt from the payment of dues.

**3.3 Membership Dues.** The Membership Committee shall recommend to the Board proposed changes in dues for each membership class on an as-needed basis. Based on that recommendation, the Board shall in turn recommend proposed changes in dues to the general membership for a final vote at the Annual Meeting.

**3.4 Vote.** Each member regardless of membership category shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of members.

**3.5 Proxies.** Proxies shall not be recognized.

## ARTICLE 4.0 MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

**4.1 Annual Meetings.** The annual meeting of the members shall be held once each year during September at such time and place as the Board shall determine, for the purpose of the election of Officers and Trustees-at-large and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting. Any business which the Society may lawfully transact may be done at the annual meeting.

**4.2 Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the members may be called by the President at any time, or by any three members of the Board, or by fifty (50) members of the Society. Any such call shall be in writing delivered to the Secretary, shall be signed by the person(s) making such call, and shall state the day and hour of such meeting, provided that such time allows for compliance with the notice provisions of Section 4.3 hereof, and shall state the purposes for which such meeting is called. The Board shall determine the location of the special meeting. Upon proper call of a special meeting, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to see that notice of said meeting is given to the members in the manner prescribed by these Bylaws. No business shall be transacted at a special meeting which is not specified in the notice for the meeting.

**4.3 Notice.** Written notice of the day, hour, and place of any annual meeting or special meeting, and in the case of any special meeting the purpose or purposes therefore, shall be published to the membership not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting.

**4.4 Quorum.** A quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the members shall consist of not less than ten (10) members entitled to vote. If such quorum be not present, the meeting may be adjourned from time to time until such a quorum is obtained.

**4.5 Voting.** Decisions at all meetings of the Society shall be made by a majority vote of members present and voting.

## ARTICLE 5.0 ELECTIONS

**5.1 Nominations.** The Society's Nominating Committee (see section 9.2.1) is charged with nominating candidates for election as Officers and Trustees-at-large of the Society at the Annual Meeting. One candidate for each Officer and Trustee-at-large shall be nominated. Any member of the Society may make suggestions to the Nominating Committee of the names of candidates. Additional nominations for election of Officers or Trustees-at-large may be in order from the floor at the annual meeting.

**5.2 Voting.** The Officers and Trustees-at-large shall be elected by a majority of those members present and voting at the annual meeting.

## ARTICLE 6.0 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**6.1 Composition.** The Board shall be composed of the Society's Officers and five (5) Trustees-at-large, elected by the membership.

**6.2 Powers.** The management and control of the property and affairs of the Society are vested in the Board. The Board shall adopt, maintain and revise, as needed, policies on various matters of the Society.

### 6.3 Terms, Vacancies.

**6.3.1 Terms.** The term of office of each Trustee-at-large shall be three (3) years. No Trustee-at-large shall serve two (2) consecutive three (3)-year terms. At least one (1) Trustee-at-large will be replaced each year.

**6.3.2 Vacancies.** Any vacancy that occurs on the Board may be filled by the recommendation of the Board Development Committee and approved by a majority of the Board to serve until duly elected at the next annual meeting.

**6.4 Resignation and Removal.** Any Trustee-at-large may resign by filing with the President, the Secretary or the Board a written resignation which shall take effect on being so filed or at such later time as may be specified therein. To the extent permitted by law, any Trustee-at-large may, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, be expelled for cause from the post of Trustee-at-large by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the Board which has been duly called and the notice of which contained notice of such purpose, provided that reasonable notice and opportunity for hearing are first provided such Trustee-at-large. For the purpose of this section, "cause" is defined to be conduct detrimental to the interests of the Society or refusal to render reasonable assistance in carrying out its purpose.

**6.5 Meetings.** There shall be a minimum of four regular meetings per year of the Board. Special meetings of the Board may be called at any time by the President at his/her discretion, and shall be called at the written request of one-third of the Board members. Five (5) members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and action by a majority of those present at the meeting at which a quorum is present shall be

the action of the Board, except as otherwise required by law or these Bylaws.

**6.6 Notice.** Notice of meetings shall be given by mail, e-mail, or telephone at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

**6.7 Minutes.** The minutes of each Board meeting shall be distributed at or before the next meeting.

**6.8 Annual Report.** The Board shall report on the affairs of the Society at each annual meeting of the Society.

## ARTICLE 7.0 OFFICERS

**7.1 Composition, Terms, Vacancies.** The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Officers shall be elected by the members at the annual meeting. Officers shall hold office for one year or until their successors are duly elected. No person shall serve in an office for more than three consecutive one-year terms. A vacancy in any office may be filled for the unexpired portion of a term, after recommendation of the Board Development Committee, by the Board at any duly called regular or special Board meeting. For the purposes of determining the number of consecutive terms permitted to any Officer, the filling of a vacancy shall be considered a term only if the unexpired portion of the term is more than one-half of the ordinary term.

**7.2 Resignation and Removal.** Any Officer may resign by filing with the President, the Secretary, or the Board a written resignation which shall take effect on being filed or at such later time as may be specified therein. To the extent permitted by law, the Board by a two-third vote of those present and voting at any duly called meeting of the Board may remove from office any Officer for cause, as defined in 6.4, provided that reasonable notice and opportunity for a hearing are first provided said Officer.

**7.3 President.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership, the Board and the Executive Committee, and shall have the right to vote on all questions and, subject to approval of the Board, shall appoint the members of the committees established in accordance with Article 9.0. The President shall be an ex officio member of all committees.

**7.4 Vice-President.** The Vice-President shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the President in the absence or disability of the President. The Vice-President shall have such other duties as may from time to time be prescribed by the Board.

**7.5 Secretary.** The Secretary shall keep a true and accurate account of all meetings of the members and of the Board and have such other duties as may from time to time be prescribed.

**7.6 Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall oversee the collection and payment of all monies, and the keeping of financial records and give a written report to the Board at each Board meeting. The Treasurer shall serve on the standing committee charged with matters relating to finance and/or investments (presently the Investment Committee) as a voting member.



## ARTICLE 8.0 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**8.1 Membership.** The President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and such Trustees-at-large as may be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board, shall act as the Executive Committee of the Board.

### 8.2 Quorum and Responsibilities.

**8.2.1. Quorum.** The majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and action by a majority of those present at the meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the action of the Committee.

**8.2.2 Responsibilities.** The Executive Committee may take such action as the Board could take, if it were meeting when in the opinion of the Executive Committee immediate action is needed and should not await a full Board meeting except in the following instances: the disposition of property; when such power is limited from time to time by the vote of the Board; or when such power is expressly reserved exclusively to the Board in these Bylaws. Action taken by the Executive Committee shall be reported to the Board at the next meeting of the Board. Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee shall be distributed to all Board members.

**8.3 Executive Session.** Upon the vote of two-thirds of the members of the Executive Committee present, the Executive Committee may elect to hold a portion of its meeting in executive session in order to ensure confidentiality for the discussion of the following topics only: (i) the employment, appointment, assignment, duties, promotion, demotion, compensation, evaluation, disciplining, resignation or dismissal of members, Trustees-at-large, Officers, or employees of the Society, as may arise under these Bylaws, if the dissemination of written minutes of such discussion to the Board reasonably could be expected to damage the reputation of the individual or violate the right to privacy of the individual, and (ii) the purchase and sale of property of any nature if in the opinion of the Executive Committee publication of such discussion could be detrimental to such purchase or sale. Minutes of discussions in executive session shall be kept separately by the Secretary and maintained by the Secretary as confidential. The Executive Committee may not make a final decision in executive session, but shall instead take such final decision upon the record.

## ARTICLE 9.0 COMMITTEES

**9.1 Committee Appointment and Responsibilities.** Members and chairs of all committees (see 9.2, 9.3, and 9.4) are appointed by the President, subject to approval of the Board. A committee may nominate its chair from its membership for consideration for appointment by the President, subject to approval of the Board. Chairs and members of Society and Board standing committees are appointed annually. Committees are responsible for providing recommendations and advice to the Board, and the Board is

responsible for final policy and financial decisions. All committees should keep minutes of their meetings as appropriate and make these available as needed to the full Board and to other committees. Committees meet on the call of their chairs or by a call from any three other members of the respective committee.

**9.2 Standing Committees of the Society.** Standing Committees of the Society are: Annual Fund, Art, Building, Capital Campaign, Collections, Crafts, Dr. Moses Mason Award, Education, Garden and Grounds, Historic Preservation, Marketing, Membership, Museum, Noll Volunteer Award, Nominating, Programs, Publications, Research Library, Special Projects, Strategic and Long Range Planning, and Technology. Members of the Society and members of the community at large may be appointed to serve on Society standing committees. Written descriptions of each committee's functions shall be approved by the Board and may be revised from time to time by the Board.

**9.2.1 Nominating Committee.** The Nominating Committee shall be composed of one retiring Trustee-at-large selected by the Board and two members from the general membership elected at the Annual Meeting each year for the next year's selection of nominees. In case of a vacancy within those selected by the general membership between annual meetings, the President shall in consultation with the Executive Committee appoint a replacement.

**9.3 Standing Committees of the Board.** Standing committees of the Board are: Executive, Finance, Investment, and Board Development. Written descriptions of each committee's functions and composition shall be approved by the Board and may be revised from time to time by the Board.

**9.4 Other committees.** Subject to approval by the Board, the President may appoint, for specified terms, additional committees of either the Society or the Board to address specific tasks or projects deemed necessary to carry out the program and purposes of the Society. Members of such committees may be members of the Board, of the Society, or of the community at large. Such committees will be provided with a clear written charge and schedule for completion of their work.

## ARTICLE 10.0 FINANCES

**10.1 Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the Society shall be 1 January to 31 December.

**10.2 Treasurer Accounts.** The accounts of the Treasurer and all supporting accounts which the Board may authorize to be kept under his/her direction shall be forwarded after the end of each fiscal year to an independent certified public accountant for preparation of required tax filings and such financial reports as requested by the Board.

## **ARTICLE 11.0 PROFESSIONAL STAFF OF THE SOCIETY**

**11.1 Staff Personnel.** The staff of the Society shall include an Executive Director, a Curator, and such other personnel as are authorized by the Board to perform the functions of the Society.

**11.2 Executive Director.** The Executive Director shall be responsible to the Board for the proper conduct of the general affairs of the Society, except where otherwise provided, to include: acting as the coordinator of exhibits and committees; serving in public and educational capacities on the Society's behalf; directing the work of the Curator and other employees; and overseeing the proper maintenance and protection of all Society property. The Executive Director shall submit reports of the operations of the Society to the Board at their meetings, and to members of the Society at their annual and special meetings, and may at any time make such recommendations to the Board and, in consultation with the Board, to the members of the Society as may, in the Executive Director's discretion, be advisable.

**11.3 Curator.** The Curator shall be responsible, under the direction of the Executive Director, for the acquisition, accessioning, cataloging, display, care and preservation of all collections of the Society.

## **ARTICLE 12.0 RULES OF ORDER**

**12.1** The meetings of the Society and of the Board shall be conducted in accordance with the "Robert's Rules of Order," except as otherwise specified in these Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE 13.0 PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES**

**13.1** The Society is not organized nor operated for profit. No property or profit of the Society shall inure to the benefit of any person, partnership, or corporation except in the furtherance of the benevolent or non-profit-making purposes of the Society. No substantial part of the activities shall consist of carrying on propaganda or otherwise influencing legislation; nor will it participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

## **ARTICLE 14.0 DISSOLUTION**

**14.1** Upon the dissolution of the Society, the Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Society, dispose of all of the assets of the Society by distributing them to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for purposes similar to those of the Society, with preference given to those in northern New England, as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal revenue

Service Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States internal revenue code), as the Board shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of as directed by the Superior Court of Oxford County exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

## **ARTICLE 15.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**15.1** The Society shall not enter into any contract relating to or incidental to the operations conducted by the Society in which any Officer or Trustee-at-large may be interested directly or indirectly unless such interest as has been disclosed. No contract, transaction, or act shall be taken on behalf of the Society if such contract, transaction, or act is a prohibited transaction or would result in the denial or loss of the Society's tax exempt status under applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code and regulations there under as they now or may hereafter exist or as there may hereafter be amended. In no event, however, shall any person or other entity dealing with the Board be obligated to inquire into the authority of the Board to enter into and consummate any contract, transaction, or action.

## **ARTICLE 16.0 NONDISCRIMINATION**

**17.1** The Society shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, creed, sex, religion, age, marital status, physical or mental handicap, or sexual preference.

## **ARTICLE 17.0 VOTING UPON SHARES OF OTHER CORPORATIONS**

**18.1** Unless otherwise ordered by the Board, the President, or a person delegated, shall have full power and authority on behalf of the Society to vote either in person or by proxy at any meeting of shareholders of any corporation in which the Society may hold shares, and at any such meeting may possess and exercise all of the rights and powers incident to the ownership of such shares which, as the owner thereof, the Society might have possessed and exercised if present.

## **ARTICLE 18.0 AMENDMENTS OF BYLAWS**

**19.1** These Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the members of the Society by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting, provided written notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given in the notice for said meeting.



## Barn Redux

### Bethel's Most Modern Barn in 1950

by Donald G. Bennett  
(continued from the last issue)

From the late 1940s to the day when closing the farm was decided, Mike had been one of the "hard core" members of the "skiing in Bethel, skiing for Bethel" group along with Howard Cole, Wilbur Myers, Avery Angevine, Addison Saunders and Henry Hastings, who produced both the Vernon Street ski tow and later the Sunday River Skiway. From 1958 to farm decision time in 1966, Mike had been President of Sunday River Skiway Corporation. So it was not surprising when he and Connie decided to convert the modern tile dairy barn into a condo style motel. As the farm faded and the conversion from barn to motel proceeded, Connie found that she had stepped into a full-time job of running a new business.

From 1966 to 1968, Bethel's modern dairy barn became the work place for Eddie Daye and Skip Davis, two very well-known local builders, who had been hired to transform the barn into eight, two bedroom apartment style motel lodging units. Mike recalls that a temporary, raised sub-floor had to be built first in order for the ceiling work to be within reach. After the first six stall conversions were done, the Barn Motel opened for business. (This Motel joined L'Auberge, located between Mill Hill Road and Kimball Park, which had been converted earlier by Peter Schutt, Bethel Inn's general manager for his home and guest housing, and the Oaks of the Bethel Inn as primarily unused horse barns converted to tourist lodgings.) In the meantime, the cattle had been sold, the hay barn dismantled and sold as well as the blue silo.

In 1968, the Barn Motel, which had begun life as the most modern dairy barn in Bethel, now took up the role of being the most modern motel in Bethel. It had eight apartment style units and each consisted of two bedrooms, living-dining room area and a complete kitchen. They were electrically heated with television and tennis courts as special amenities. The building's tile walls made for cool rooms during Bethel's hot spells in summer. Bethel National Training Laboratory participants coming for summer labs soon discovered the Barn Motel. Connie Thurston recalls that some of the N.T.L. people were skeptical about living in a bedroom that had once been home to cows. Metropolitan types at first seemed reluctant to sleep where whiffs of cattle might turn up as an unwanted amenity. On the other hand, skiers "took" to the Motel in a wholesale fashion; this group usually rented the facilities for the entire winter season, paying in advance, no less. Hunters found the Motel to a favorite "camping site." Forsaking the hunter's reputation for loving to rough it, this group became comfort-loving "regulars" a.k.a. "Connie's Hunters."

The Motel filled a void many vacationers had been looking for in Bethel: something comfortable and modern. Connie Thurston's personal, fastidious touch turned a novelty into a highly regarded part of the Bethel tourist scene that was attempting to overcome some of its 19<sup>th</sup> century style heating and plumbing facilities. As a result, when the Thurstons were ready to retire in the late 1980s, the Motel's success led to an offer from an investment group, who wanted to expand the original Thurston idea of sleep-cook suites from eight to thirty two such places under one roof. The thirty two apartment style units were turned into condominiums purchased by the individuals in this investment group and immediately made available to rent. Air conditioning was

later added to the amenities of the entire cluster of suites. Out on the highway, the name of the business became the River View Motel (later changed to Resort). But buried deep inside the shell of the River View Resort lies the soul of Bethel's most modern dairy barn of the 1950s.

### Afterword

My own barn experience started with my grandfather, J. Howell Crosby's barn in Arlington, MA; its purpose was for horses, hay and the trimming, washing, and packing of vegetables for the Boston market. Then my family moved to Bethel, Maine. My father's dairy operations, Riverside Farms, purchased milk from fifteen local farmers. Picking up milk from each of these farms on a daily basis provided me with many mental "snapshots" of Bethel's barns. These accumulated visions made the Thurston's new dairy barn really stand out in my mind as very new, very different and very up to date. Finally, Kathy and I inherited my Crosby grandparents summer home in Sunday River, which had a connected barn and small tie-up. The Red House barn was a generic family barn since the original owners operated a tannery as their main business. But this barn showed remodeling efforts. One half was post and beam construction and the new half was a mixture of framing with post and beam. Spending summer vacations there gave me connections with another neighborhood group, the Nowlins and the Beans. Jane Bean Young was the leader of this gang. We used to play "Follow the Leader" in my grandparents' barn, then head for the Bean's barn to try out their hay lofts and beams. My great-grandfather, Arthur F. Bennett, came to Bethel in May 1914 to buy the farm adjoining that of J. A. Thurston. His son, Edward E. Bennett, moved his family to this farm from Errol during the summer of 1914. A. E. Bennett married Celia Marie Thurston in Wilson's Mills, 15 October 1877. In the 1880s, they left their Errol farm in the winter months to run a logging camp. Celia Bennett died in 1904 and A. E. Bennett in 1933. For more information on the Thurston family genealogy, one should consult the genealogy by Robert D. Stoddard, "The Thurstons of Errol, NH," which can be found in the Research Library of the Bethel Historical Society.

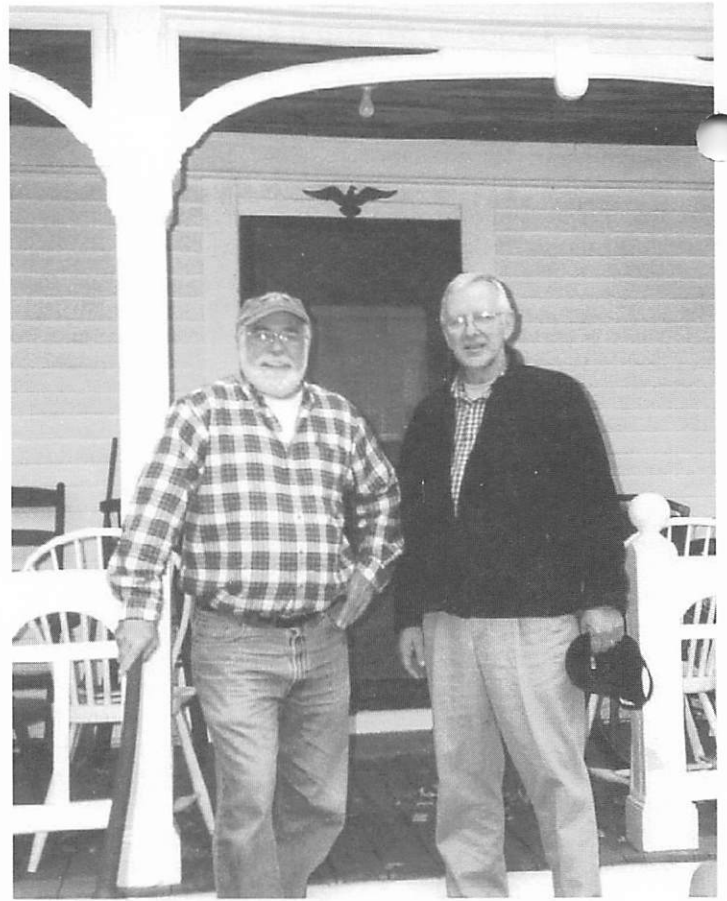
With Paul Thurston's passing, the third generation took over. Murray and Constance, Paul's son and daughter-in-law known popularly around town as "Mike and Connie" picked up the reins and continued the patriarch's responsibilities. Mike woke up daily with "three traffic lights" blinking and competing for his attention: the J. A. Thurston Mill in Hale, the Sunday River Skiway (Mike was serving as president), and the needs of the Thurston farm. In addition, Mike had three young sons, David, John and Peter. For a time, according to Mike and Connie, they could rely on someone else to worry about the farm and the herd. "Tink" Felt was still their farm manager.

During this time, Mike and Connie exchanged residences with Paul's widow Florence. Mike continued to juggle his responsibilities of the mill business, the farm and Sunday River Skiway for the next few years until another crisis occurred at the farm. In 1966, "Tink" Felt severely injured his hand in an accident. His injury precipitated a family council meeting to discuss how to deal with running the farm. Managers with "Tink" Felt's skills, experience and reliability were difficult to replace. After many hours discussing their new situation and the time commitments for Mike to superintend the farm in addition to his responsibilities, the Thurstons decided to dissolve Thurstonia Dairy Farm. ■

# Photo Gallery



Charter Member Rosalind Rowe Chapman cuts the first piece of the 40th anniversary cake during the oral history night on May 11.



Lou McNally, host of Maine Public Broadcasting Network's "Made in Maine," (left) stands on the steps of the Hastings Homestead with the show's producer Frank Ferral following the filming of a segment for the show on Maine barns. McNally interviewed Society Director Stanley R. Howe while on a tour of his Hastings Homestead barn for the show.



"Made in Maine" host Lou McNally (center) stands in the courtyard of the Dr. Moses Mason House during the filming of a program segment dealing with Maine barns. McNally toured the Smithsonian "Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon" in the Dr. Mason barn with Society Director Stanley R. Howe



Executive Director Stanley R. Howe (left) poses with Society members Lester Dickey of Gardiner, Maine, and Jason Thompson of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Mary Valentine, research library volunteer. Thompson was in Bethel researching Mormon history. 2005 marked the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of prophet Joseph Smith's birth in Sharon, Vermont.





*Society Director Stanley R. Howe leads a cemetery tour of Bethel Civil War gravesites as the final event of the winter/spring course, "Maine and the Civil War."*

### **Diary of William S. Hastings** (continued from the last issue)



May 12, Clouding, showery. 9 hr. on L7R3, Albany for B.S. Bank. Acute indigestion attack in eve. May 13, Cloudy, cool. Planted spuds all day. May 14, Misty. 9 hr. on 7R3, Albany & finished. I cut the Mason meeting. First one I have missed in 4 years. May 15, Clouding up. Harrowed in a.m. Repaired tractor clutch in p.m. Bob in Portland. Went on watch [for enemy planes]. May 16, Cloudy. I'm sick in bed with flu. Widd came down. May 17, Cloudy & rain. Still in bed. Widd [Twaddle, M.D.] came again. May 18, Clearing. Widd let me get up. I'm pretty weak. May 19, Cloudy. I'm practically "wuthless." May 20, Cloudy & foggy. 7 hr. for Paul Thurston on west line of Mt. lot. May 21, Showers. Cut spuds in a.m. 6 ½ hr. for E. J. Mann on John Brock lot, West Paris, \$7 pd. May 22, Showers. Put up load of spuds. Norway in p.m. We all went with Bernice Noyes. Blackout in eve., 100%. May 23, Bethel in p.m. May 24, Clear & hot, then cloudy. Fenced Home Pasture. Greenwood & W. Paris in p.m. May 25, Cloudy. 3 ½ hrs. plowing for Leslie Noyes. Started for Portland in p.m. via Yarmouth. Lauri [Tamminen, brother-in-law] & I saw wrestling bouts. May 26, Foggy & cold. Attended the Grand Chapter Session of O.E.S. May 27, Clearing. Grand Chapter again. Home via bus at 8 p.m. May 28, Clear & cool. Butchered calf. Tinkered planter. Plowed on Horse Pasture. Planted on Home Piece. Hoed garden in eve. May 29, Clear & warm. Took load of baled hay to Norway. Harrowed for Noyes 2 hr. Plowed Home Piece. John & I manned O.P. May 30, Clear & warm. Mowed cemetery lot. Plowed rest of Home Piece & harrowed. May 31, Clear & warm. Planted spuds all day. 18 A. done. June 1, Clear &

warm. 8 hrs. on Jud Blake place in Gilead for Bethel Sav. Bank. June 2, Clouding. 8 hrs. on J. Blake east line. June 3, Light rain. Bryants Pond and Lockes Mills in a.m. Plowed for Leslie in p.m., 4 ½ hr. Bob broke through Bean barn floor with the truck. Star meeting. June 4, Cloudy, misty. Plowed 3 hrs. for Noyes. P.M. 2 hrs. for Paul Thurston in 18R8, Bethel. 2 hrs. for F. Edwards in L9R2, Greenwood. June 5, Clear & cool. 8 hrs. on Jud Blake lines, spotting & setting corners. June 6, Clear & warm. 3 hrs. on court plan at Bryants Pond for Bob Smith. Drafting 4 hrs. \$5 in all. June 7, Rain. Drafting plans. Greenwood in p.m. June 8, Clear & warm. G. A. Graduation. Plowed 2 hrs. for Noyes. June 9, Clouding. Directors meeting at So. Paris. Ruth is on Jury duty. Research 3 hrs. for Edwards. June 10,



*Life Member Roberta Pevear of Exeter, NH, is shown with one of several volumes of transcribed 19<sup>th</sup> century documents she recently donated, along with the originals, to the Society. Mrs. Pevear also made a generous contribution to establish a fund to maintain this collection which relates to several lines of her family.*

Clear & hot. 1600 lbs. spuds to Norway, \$2.70 per cwt. 4 hrs. research B.S. Bank. June 11, Clear & HOT! 8 hrs. for Edwards in L9 & 10R1, Greenwood. June 12, Fair & hot. 3 hrs. Geo. Tirrell, camp lot. Paid 1 hr. Albert Swan pd. 1 hr. Town of Greenwood, 1 hr. Edwards. June 13, Clouding. 7 hrs. Gilead on Blake lot. June 14, Clouding. 7 hrs. on Riverside Cemetery Annex, Oxford. Rain at night. Nor'easter. June 15, Clearing. Gully Brook flood washed away 70 feet of tar road, four feet deep. Otter Brook washout is 40 feet & 10 feet deep. We're marooned. June 16, Cloudy, rain. Ran car over brook on 2 planks. Spend day in Cur on Bacon case for Bob Smith. Uncle John [Fifield] came home with me. June 17, Rain! Ruth & I were guest officers at School of Instruction at Waterford. June 18, Cloudy. Repaired Bean barn floor. June 19, Clearing. 5 hrs. on Parsonage Lot in Bethel. Norway in p.m. June 20, Clear & warm. 3 hrs. Clarence Hall L14R1, Bethel. 3 hrs. Town of Greenwood. Road layout. June 21, Clouding. Repaired machinery & worked on plans, etc. June 22, Clear & warm. 7 hrs. for Chadbourne on Oliver Farm, Bethel. June 23, Clear, warm. 4hrs. For Rumford Falls Trust Co. on Lot 81, Milton. Took Gene Burns to Rumford. He is called for the Army. June 24, Cloudy (partly). 9 hrs on Lot 81, Milton. \$2 paid to Enos Farnum. June 25, Clear & hot. Started sprayer. Hayed. June 26, Clear & hot. Hayed & hoed. June 27, Clear & hot. Hayed & hoed. June 28, Cloudy. Grover [Brooks] & I screened the camp porch. June 29, Clear & hot. 10 hrs. on L4 & 5 R2, Andover for Dr. Henry M. Howard. June 30, Clear & hot. 3 hrs. research for Dr. Howard. 3 hrs. for Fred Edwards. July 1, Clear and hot. 9 hr. on Lots 4 & 5 R2, East on Ellis River for Dr. Howard. July 2, Cloudy. Tinkered truck. Hoed spuds. July 3, Cloudy. Sprayed & hoed. July 4, Clearing. Grover's family & my family went to Camp. Late in p.m. went to the Forks & counted 30 deer. Heard several more. Steve Abbott's barn burned [on Swan Hill]. July 5, Cloudy. Went to Tyler Cove [Lake Umbagog]. Motor and canoe worked nice. July 6, Cloudy and showers. Sprayed and hoed. July 7, Clear & cool. Sprayed all day. Meeting of Town Committee in eve. July 8, Showery. 7 hr. for Fred Hall on Swan Lot, Walkers Mills. July 9, Clear & cool. Cultivated in a.m. 5 hrs. in Milton L81, in p.m. Mason Meeting in eve. July 10, Clear & hot. 10 hrs. for W. F. Stewart in Sumner. July 11, Rain. Built trailer hayrack. July 15, Clear & cool. Sprayed & hoed. Fixed the "dugway hill"[road to intervale]. July 16, Cloudy & clearing. John & I went to Sumner, 10 hr. July 17, Clear. Cold morning. Hayed & repaired machinery in a.m. Norway in p.m. Bought a used tire & a "capped" tire. \$27.50. Lucky to find 'em. July 18, Cloudy. 4 hr. searching records for W. F. Stewart. Bethel in p.m. Squared up with Bryant [market]. Bought Gene's bike, \$30. July 19, Clear & hot. Round home a.m. Greenwood in late p.m.

*(To be continued in the next issue)*



### **Member Profile: Nancy H. Mercer**

Nancy H. Mercer was born in Bethel, ME, 12 July 1938, the daughter of James and Agnes Howe Haines. She attended local schools and graduated from Gould Academy in 1958. For twenty years, she served in the U.S. Army, attaining the rank of Master Sergeant. Her army career took her to live in several parts of the nation and the world, including Okinawa, Germany, France and Korea. She married Boyd Mercer in 1974. He died in 1979. She received a degree in history from the University of Maine at Farmington in 1983. Following graduation, she worked for SAD # 44 and later at Robert's Poultry and Bethel Furniture Stock before retiring in 2000.

Active in the community, she has been Secretary of Alder River Grange #145 since 1979, and was elected President of the East Bethel Cemetery Association in 1992. She is currently the President of Bethel Senior Citizens, Secretary for the East Bethel Church board, Treasurer of Oxford Pomona Grange #2, and is a leader in the Bethel Philatelic Club.

For many years, she has been a dedicated volunteer for the Society, doing historical research, transcribing records, assisting with mailings, and serving as a guide in the museum. Her hobbies include reading, sewing and cats.

### **In Memoriam**

Died, 14 February 2006, Earlon Keniston, Bethel, Senior Member

Died, 28 February 2006, Margaret Carter Bean, Charter and Honorary Member

Died, 6 May 2006, Elizabeth Mason Carter, West Bethel, Charter and Honorary Member

Died, 31 May 2006, George Gamble, Bethel, Life Member

Died, 17 June 2006, Ruth Gilbert, West Bethel, Senior Member

### **New Life Members**

Diana Bell, Scarborough  
Russ and Paula Howard, Bethel



## Book Note

*The Tools that Built America.* By Alex W. Bealer. Mineola, NY: Dover, 1976. Pp. 212. Paper. \$11.95.)

In this remarkable book, Alex W. Bealer has provided a useful compendium of tools used in working wood for houses and furniture from this nation's earliest days to the beginning decades of the 20th century. Divided into four chapters, the book deals with the significance of the log cabin and the pioneer jack-of-all trades, the work of the house carpenter, furniture and cabinet makers, and the role of other woodworkers, such as coopers, wheelwrights and coachmakers. Profusely illustrated with good photos of tools, houses and furniture, this volume also contains descriptions of woodworking techniques and a brief, but helpful bibliography for those interested in other works on the subject. SRH

**For ordering information, please see page 12.**

## SOCIETY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Allen Cressy, President; Susan Herlihy, Vice President; Sarah Tucker, Secretary and Clerk of the Trustees; Grace McKivergan, Treasurer; Trustees: June Abbott, Dorothy Bartlett, Walter Hatch, John Head, and Arlan Jodrey.

## Editor's Corner

Once more we are observing another anniversary of the Society's founding and this issue is devoted to that subject. Forty years is not very long in the universal scheme of things, but it represents a quantum leap when one considers how far this organization has come from a gleam in the eye of Eva Bean and her hardy band of "believers" in 1966 to the organization we know today with nearly 1400 members, two buildings, a professional staff of three, a hundred plus volunteers, and a very full calendar of activities and special events. The Society has established itself as an organization well-known in historical circles throughout the state for its publications, exhibits, and programming. Lest we get too taken with our progress, however, we still have an ambitious capital campaign goal to fulfill and must always face the challenge of raising endowment funds and keeping our members and friends engaged with the historical spirit. But sometimes it is essential to celebrate how far we have come and appreciate all the hard work that has gone before us in making the Society the special organization we have come to know and appreciate today.

SRH

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Membership in the Society entitles you to:

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- A 10% discount on purchases of \$10 or more from the Society's Museum Shop
- Special Research Library privileges, including reduced photocopying fees
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- Preferred rate for exhibit hall/meeting room rental
- Voting rights in the Society
- Reduced course fees
- Special invitations to Society events

Note: New memberships activated after July 1 include that calendar year, plus the following year.

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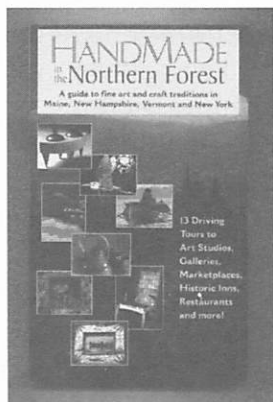
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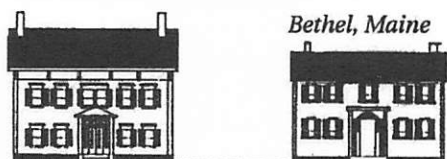
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### BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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